

Ronald C. Jessamy



Ronald C. Jessamy is an attorney who represents clients in civil litigation, administrative and regulatory proceedings and commercial and real estate transactions. For over forty (40) years, he has practiced before the local and federal courts in the District of Columbia and before local administrative agencies and commissions.

Mr. Jessamy began his legal career in 1974 as an associate with the firm of Hudson Leftwich and Davenport, where he practiced until 1984 when he left to form the firm of Jessamy Douglas & Fort (later, Jessamy Fort Ogletree & Botts). In 1998, Mr. Jessamy and his partners combined their practice with the highly regarded litigation and real estate firm of Jordan & Keys, LLP to create Jordan Keys Jessamy & Botts, LLP. In 2003, Mr. Jessamy established the Law Office of Ronald C. Jessamy, PLLC.

Mr. Jessamy has served as a hearing agent for the District of Columbia Public Service Commission and has provided services as special counsel to the District of Columbia City Council and the District of Columbia Board of Education. Mr. Jessamy has provided representation to such entities as insurance companies, accounting firms, an electric utility company, national oil companies, financial institutions, governmental agencies, health care organizations (hospitals, nursing homes and health maintenance organizations), nonprofit corporations, churches and a number of minority business enterprises.

Mr. Jessamy is an active participant in professional, business and civic activities in the District of Columbia. He is a graduate of the Leadership Washington program, and served on its board of directors from 1988 to 1991. He served on the board of directors of the former Greater Southeast Community Hospital, a 450-bed acute care hospital in the District of Columbia, from 1985 through 1991 and was its chair from 1986 to 1989. He served on the board of directors of Fort Washington (MD) Community Hospital, Stoddard Baptist Nursing Home, and the Economic Club of Washington. He was the chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. D.C. Support Group. He also served on the National Advisory Committee of The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation-Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program at Howard University.

Mr. Jessamy has been a voting delegate to the District of Columbia Judicial Conference for over 30 years and served as a member of the Committee on Arrangements for the Conference in 1998. He has been a guest of the District of Columbia Circuit Judicial Conference and has participated as a panelist at one of its sessions. In 1999, Mr. Jessamy was appointed by the judges of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to chair the Merit Selection Panel for the Reappointment of Magistrate Judge Alan Kay and in 2010 the judges appointed him to become a member of that court's Non-Appropriated Funds Advisory Committee. He is a member of the American Bar Association and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is also a member of the National Bar Association and served on its Board of Governors as an affiliate representative from 2008 - 2009. He is a past president of the Washington Bar Association (2008 – 2010), an affiliate of the National Bar Association. He has also served on the District of Columbia Bar's Judicial Evaluation Committee. He was appointed by the District of Columbia Bar's Board of Governors to serve on its 2007-2008 Nominations Committee, on its 2008-2009 Screening Committee and on its Regulations/Rules/Board Procedures Committee from 2009-2011. Mr. Jessamy was also a member of the District of Columbia Conference on Opportunities for Minorities in the Legal Profession. He served on the executive committee of the Council for Court Excellence and as chair of that organization's nominations committee for several years. In 2011 he was recognized for his leadership in connection with that organization with the award of the Charles A. Horsky Plaque. He is a member of Sigma Delta Tau legal fraternity. He was the recipient of the Washington Bar Association's prestigious Ollie May Cooper Award in 2013. He was inducted into the Washington Bar Association's Hall of Fame in June 2014. He has been requested to contribute an oral history to the District of Columbia Circuit Historical Society. Since 2015, he has served as a judge for the selection of the Legacy Award in the field of Law for the D.C. Hall of Fame Society and is a member of that organization's board of directors.

The Ronald C. Jessamy Professionalism Award was established by the Young Lawyers' Division of the Washington Bar Association in 2015. The award, given annually, honors a young lawyer who greatly enhances the profession through exemplary practice of law and demonstrates a commitment to professionalism in their practice and through active engagement in bar service.

Mr. Jessamy is listed in the Martindale-Hubbell Legal Directory with an "AV" (very high to preeminent) attorney rating. He was listed in the December 2004 and December 2007 editions of *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of Washington, D.C.'s top lawyers. He is listed as one of Washington, DC's Super Lawyers in the 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 District of Columbia editions of *Super Lawyers* publication.

Mr. Jessamy has contributed articles to various publications during his professional career, one of which is *Constitutional Grounds to Challenge State Public Utility Commission Restrictions on Use of Utility Name and Logo*, Public Utilities Fortnightly, July 1999. Co-authors, Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Karen J. Miller. He has provided instruction in trial practice and has judged moot court competitions at local law schools. Mr. Jessamy frequently speaks at schools, before community groups and participates on programs discussing various legal issues. He has been a speaker at national meetings of such organizations as the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, the National Association of Black Accountants and others. He

has appeared as a guest on the nationally syndicated "Tony Brown's Journal" as well as on other television and radio programs throughout his professional career.

Mr. Jessamy has been referred to in the following books: *Open Wide the Freedom Gates*, by Dr. Dorothy I. Height, former President and of the National Council of Negro Women; *The Presumption of Guilt*, by Harvard University Law Professor Charles J. Ogletree; *As BIG As It Gets*, by Farrell J. Chiles, former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Blacks In Government, Inc.; and *Serving Our Children*, by Kevin P. Chavous, former Chair of the Committee on Education, District of Columbia City Council.

Mr. Jessamy was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve in 1972. He was honorably discharged as a Captain.

Mr. Jessamy received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University and a *Juris Doctor* from the George Washington University National Law Center. He also attended the National Institute of Trial Advocacy's training course. He has been admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia since 1974. He is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Jessamy is the father of two adult children, a son, Ronald, Jr. and a daughter, Taylor.